

Maine H1N1 Influenza (“Swine Flu”) Update

Summary of Information and Activities for Thursday, May 28, 2009, 4 PM

Flu info on the Internet: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/swine-flu-2009.shtml>

- **Maine Data:** 9 confirmed cases and 1 new probable case have been identified among Maine residents. An additional 4 cases (1 confirmed, 3 probable) have been recently identified among non-Maine residents who were ill and tested while visiting the state.
- **National Data:** US CDC reports 7,927 confirmed and probable cases and 11 deaths (<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/investigation.htm>).
- **International Data:** WHO reports 13,398 cases in 48 countries (<http://www.who.int/csr/don/en/>).

Recent Updates:

Case finding:

- A probable case was recently identified today in an adult resident of Cumberland County. The individual was briefly hospitalized and is now recovering at home. Confirmatory testing is pending.
- There are nine additional confirmed H1N1 cases among Maine residents: three adults and one youth in York County, two adults and two youths in Cumberland County, and one youth in Penobscot County. All these cases have recovered.
- Four cases (1 confirmed, 3 probable) have been identified among non-Maine residents who were ill and underwent testing while traveling in Maine. One test was conducted in York County, 1 in Hancock county, and 2 in Lincoln County.
- US CDC used advanced testing to determine that 5 probable Maine cases were not infected with the H1N1 strain.
- The Maine CDC public health laboratory has performed nearly 1,700 influenza PCR tests this past month, and is now able to do confirmatory H1N1 testing, eliminating the need have specimens confirmed at US CDC.

H1N1 in other New England states:

- Although Maine CDC has identified 10 people with either confirmed or probable H1N1, other nearby states are seeing more of the infection, resulting in some school closures and hospitalizations.
- Massachusetts has over 400 confirmed cases of H1N1, mostly in the Greater Boston area, with 90% of them in people under 40 years of age. There are currently 27 people hospitalized with the infection, and about a dozen schools have closed due to H1N1 in Massachusetts. (<http://publichealth.blog.state.ma.us/h1n1-swine-flu/>).
- New York has also seen several hundred confirmed cases, mostly among young people, and has had several dozen schools closed.
- New Hampshire has 31 confirmed cases, with all but two under age 50 (http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/DHHS_SITE/swineflu.htm).

Key messages:

- As the infection spreads and re-circulates, the numbers of cases and specific locations become less meaningful. The number of identified cases simply indicates the presence of H1N1 in Maine.
- As the infection spreads we expect to see some increase in severity, as has been seen in other states.
- There appears to be a high spread among children and young adults.

- The strategies recommended the last four weeks continue to be very important. We all need to stay informed, be prepared, and practice proper respiratory hygiene.